



THE TEE TIMES.

17th National Veterans TEE Tournament.

Advance Newsletter, August 2010

Welcome:

Riverside is a friendly little town in rural Washington County, Iowa located approximately 15 miles south of Iowa City. Officially founded along the banks of the English River in 1872, the location really became a town when the Muscatine Western Railroad extended into Riverside in 1873. During those years, a general store, doctor's office and hotel were constructed.

Although Riverside is steadily growing, it possesses a small-town atmosphere and the 998 residents are proactive about their economic development. The Riverside History Center, for example, is a museum and gift shop dedicated to exhibiting items related to Riverside and includes displays of area century farms and houses. The Center opened in 2008, and is run by volunteers from in and around the community.

In 1985, Riverside residents sought out a theme for their town, and the unanimous winner and another claim to fame for Riverside is its self proclaimed "Birthplace of Captain James T. Kirk" of Star Trek fame. Each year the Riverside Area Community Club hosts a "TrekFest," which includes a parade as part of the town festival, and other Trek related activities.

In 2005, Washington County residents passed a referendum to allow a gaming operation to be annexed east of Riverside. Consequently, the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort broke ground in the fall of 2005, and opened its doors August 31, 2006. The Blue Top Ridge Golf Course was designed by world-renowned golfer and golf course architect, Rees Jones, and opened in June 2007.

While visiting Riverside you will find a beautiful, quaint town that offers shopping, dining, entertainment, attractions, and of course, golf!

Registration Details:

Before you settle in at the hotel on Monday, September 6, you must officially register for the TEE Tournament. During registration, participant attendance is verified along with other important information such as the correct spelling of your name, your address and telephone number, and the VA medical facility where you currently receive care.

Registration takes place in the atrium at the Riverside Convention Center from 3-7 p.m., with the Opening Ceremonies immediately following. Several stations will be set up throughout the atrium for different groups involved with the TEE Tournament such as the local organizing committee, the medical station and public affairs.

During the registration process, it is important to remember that a photograph will be taken at the public affairs table. These photographs will help make sure you can be identified more easily in photographs taken during the Tournament and of special events throughout the week, and will also be included in the TEE Tournament Participant Directory. Your patience while proceeding through the different stations will help ensure a smoother and more convenient process for other participants, volunteers and staff during registration.

Teams Free Choice Day:

To help break up the week, all teams will have a free day on Wednesday, September 8, where you can participate in one of several alternate activities. In addition to golf, these activities include bowling, kayaking, and either horseshoes or a bag toss. They will be

offered (on Wednesday only) from 8-11 a.m. Horseshoes will also be available on Tuesday evening at 6:30 pm.

After breakfast, participants will board buses to the different venues hosting these events. These activities help add some variety to the Tournament, in addition to the excellent golfing venues and instruction that the Tournament is known for. These alternate activities also allow participants to develop or learn other skills, enhancing the overall rehabilitation process.

As the National Veterans TEE Tournament continues to grow and expand, the program's original concept remains the

same – offering Veterans a therapeutic format to promote rehabilitation, and inspire fellowship and camaraderie.

Featured Golf Courses:

Blue Top Ridge at Riverside

Riverside, Iowa

Opened in 2007, Blue Top Ridge Golf Course is the newest in the Iowa City area. This world-class course was designed with an old, classic look, but was built for the modern game of golf. It has a distinctive terrain that accommodates the skill sets for both beginners and pro golfers. Bryan Haas, PGA golf professional and director of golf at Blue Top Ridge, will make sure your golfing experience is one you won't soon forget. The course offers a full-service clubhouse, a pro shop, and teaching and practicing facilities that will make any golfer feel like a champion.

Lake MacBride Golf Course

Solon, Iowa

This scenic nine-hole golf course was built in 1972 and offers a peaceful, country setting for players. Nestled next to Lake MacBride, this course is located between Iowa City and Cedar Rapids and was designed by Midwest Irrigation. The landscape is dotted

with many hills and trees, spanning 3,133 yards to make it a par 36 course. Golfers should be aware that water hazards come into play on several holes, and the 125 slope rate makes this course slightly harder than the average (113 slope), to add interest for all golfers.

Quail Creek Golf Course

North Liberty, Iowa

This par 36 golf course offers a championship layout that spans 3,523 yards with sweeping greens. Opened in 1970, this nine-hole course was designed by Robert Johnstone and includes six water hazards but no sand bunkers, and has been rated as one of the top 50 courses in the country by the National Golf Foundation. The smooth landscape and 124 slope rating provide a fairly easy course to walk, with an even playing field that all golfers can enjoy.

West Liberty Golf and Country Club

West Liberty, Iowa

With elevated greens and narrow fairways, this nine-hole golf course, built in 1959, has one of the toughest par 3s in Iowa. This is a regulation length course at 3,057 yards and a par 36, but has a short layout with a terrain covered in ponds and creeks that come into play several times. Good shots on this course are rewarded and a fun outing is in store for all players golfing here.

Elks Country Club

Iowa City, Iowa

Built in 1900, this private nine-hole golf course boasts to be the oldest in eastern Iowa. With a hilly terrain and narrow, tree-lined fairways, this course also offers scenic views of the Iowa River, and golfers can enjoy sidehill lies and well-placed greenside bunkers at almost every hole. This par 36 course features 2,688 yards with a slope rate of 108, and is ideal for a short game for straight drives and solid wedge shots. Last year, the Elks Country Club hosted the 2009 Ryder Cup.

Hotel Features:

“Live it up” is the motto at the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, and every effort has been made to make that phrase a reality for guests. The lavish surroundings and accommodations work in harmony for a single purpose – your total enjoyment.

The hotel offers rooms with a sophisticated interior design and modern amenities that include luxurious bedding, individual climate control, refrigerator, iron and ironing board, high-speed internet access, iPod Mp3 compatible alarm clock, a coffee maker and room service. Access to the fitness center, indoor/outdoor pool and hot tub are also included.

The resort also features Blue Top Ridge at Riverside, an 18-hole course created by championship golf course designer Rees Jones. Blue Top Ridge is one of the five area golf courses being used this week. This world-class golf course spans more than 7,500 yards and offers breathtaking views from vistas overlooking two rivers as well as man-made lakes. Its lush, rolling landscape is ideal for any golfer.

After a round of golf, you can enjoy the Vegas-inspired casino, unwind at one of the resort’s fine dining restaurants or pamper yourself at Zender’s luxury spa. The resort’s three restaurants offer fine dining with your choice of Italian, Asian or American inspired cuisine. The spa provides a number of services that are sure to leave you feeling refreshed and rejuvenated.

The Riverside Casino and Golf Resort is the epitome of luxury and comfort that aims to offer a one-of-a kind experience to all Tournament participants and guests.

Transportation:

When you are participating in any event, traveling is usually inevitable. Despite the periodic irritations that can come up while making these arrangements, the folks at the Iowa City VA Medical Center, who host this annual event, have tried to ease the pain of travel by planning ahead.

For those participants traveling by air or bus to the 2010 National Veterans TEE Tournament, transportation arrangements can be made to meet you at your destination. Please contact Angie McDowell at (319) 688-5568 or angie.mcdowell@va.gov to have a

volunteer pick you up from the airport or bus station. This information was also available in the acceptance letter that you should have received from Kirt Sickels, national director of the TEE Tournament.

Upon arrival at the airport or bus station, volunteers will be available to escort participants via minivan to the Riverside Casino and Golf Resort, where the staff will be on hand and anxiously waiting to make your stay a truly memorable one.

Transportation to and from the different venues during the week will be provided by buses that will arrive daily at the resort. If you have your own transportation, please feel free to drive yourself to these venues throughout the week. (Visit MapQuest or another mapping Web site for directions to and from the Riverside Hotel and Casino and the four other local golf courses being used this year.) Or, visit the Tee Tournament Web site at www.tee.va.gov for a map and driving directions to all golf courses. Look forward to seeing you soon!